



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION for STATE OF WASHINGTON WATER QUALITY
CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT and
FEDERAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CONSISTENCY**

August 11, 2006

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group has submitted an application for the Big Mission Creek Restoration Project requesting a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act and the requirements of WAC 173-225. For projects in the 15 coastal counties, this application will also be reviewed for coastal zone consistency in accordance with Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

This public notice is not an indication that Ecology or other state agencies have agreed with the proposed project. This notice is only intended to inform the public of the proposed project and solicit comments from local, state and federal agencies and the public.

EVALUATION: The decision to issue, deny, or condition the water quality certification (WQC) or concur with the applicant's Coastal Zone Management Act consistency statement, will be based on the following: for WQC, it is necessary for the proposed project to comply with the applicable provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and appropriate State aquatic protection requirements. For a project to be declared consistent under the CZMA program, it must be in compliance with the State and Federal Clean Water and Air Acts, the Shoreline Management Act, the State Environmental Policy Act, and other applicable federal and state regulations.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public, state, and local agencies and officials, tribes, and other interested parties in order to evaluate the impacts of the activity. Ecology will consider all comments to determine whether to approve, condition, or deny a certification for the proposed work. **Comments should be sent to:**

Lori Ochoa
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
e-mail: loch461@ecy.wa.gov

The comment period will last 14 days, from August 11, 2006 to August 25, 2006.

The Department of Ecology is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability as defined by applicable state and/or federal regulations or statutes. If you have special accommodation needs, please contact Ecology's TDD Headquarters at (360) 407-6006.



The following application for a for 401 Water Quality Certification and CZMA consistency determination has been received:

PROJECT NAME: Big Mission Creek Restoration Project

PROJECT NUMBER: 200600888

APPLICANT: Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
P O Box 2169
Belfair, WA 98528

AGENT OR CONTACT: Pat McCullough, P E
210 N E. Cherokee Beach
Belfair, WA 98528
360-275-0373
path@hctc.com

ECOLOGY PROJECT REVIEWER: Lori Ochoa
Department of Ecology, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
360-407-6926
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FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION: The Corps of Engineers is reviewing this project under the Nationwide Permit Program. Final decision by the Corps of Engineers will determine if permit coverage under the nationwide permit program is appropriate or if an individual 404 permit will be required. In either case Ecology has determined that an individual 401 Water Quality Certification and CZM Determination will be required.

LOCATION: The restoration site is located at Belfair State Park within the City of Belfair at 410 NE Beck Road, Mason County, Washington. NW Section 1, Township 22 North, Range 2 West, WRIA 15.

RECEIVING WATER: Hood Canal

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will restore the Big Mission Creek estuary and remove fish passage barriers. The existing dike area that forms a swimming lagoon will be removed and Big Mission Creek will be redirected from an artificially straightened channel back into the area of its historic location. The project will reconnect the Creek to tidal basins on Lynch Cove at the end of Hood Canal, adding 6.5 acres of estuary to the Lower Hood Canal.

The proposed project is described in more detail in the Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application prepared on June 28, 2006, and associated documents.

APPEALS: If the water quality certification (WQC) is issued, any person aggrieved may obtain review thereof by appeal. The applicant can appeal up to 30 days after receipt of the WQC, and all others can appeal up to 30 days from the postmarked date of the WQC. The appeal must be consistent with the provisions of Chapter 43 21B RCW and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder.